

ATA/ATAPI to FireWire Adapter

High-speed data transfer at its best

As the medium of choice for high-speed data transfer, FireWire is made for gearheads and media junkies alike. CalOptic, known for its FireWire based, high-speed, and cost effective media duplicators, has applied its own technology to desktops by creating a ATA/ATAPI to FireWire Converter. While PCs are not the ideal platform for CD and DVD duplicating, incorporating FireWire drives does provide its share of benefits and may be just what you need when it comes to quick and dirty media replication.

While CalOptic's FireWire to ATA/ATAPI Converter has been in the market for quite some time now, it's still relatively unknown among the majority of PC users. The benefits of using this device are immediately apparent. Most PCs are limited to four IDE devices and are IRQ dependent, whereas FireWire can support up to 63 devices on one IRQ. Installation of the converter is extremely simple and

the FireWire enhanced IDE drives are less taxing on the CPU.

It's easy to see from the cables that FireWire devices are meant to be plugged and unplugged frequently. Hot-swapping is a key selling point of FireWire, and while the converter takes advantage of this feature, the ATA drives still use the standard 4-pin Molex power adapters. Since I often lose a bit of skin off of my knuckles when removing power cables, I won't be enthusiastically swapping out internal drives while my PC is powered. However, running FireWire cables inside the case is much more preferable than using the standard IDE cables, and when multiple converters are used, it is possible to daisy-chain multiple IDE drives.

Those who benefit the most from the FireWire to ATA/ATAPI Converter are consumers who require a high output of dedicated media duplicators but who are lacking the funds to purchase one. The low



cost of IDE optical drives and converters make CalOptic's product the ideal solution for anyone on a budget. Although the converter does not win any "sexy hardware" awards in my book, being that the plastic case is a bit bulky, the very option of future expansion alone makes it a worthwhile purchase. ▲

THE VERDICT

9.5

PRICE \$65.00

HITS

Expandable; hot swappable IDE drives; less clutter inside the PC case; cost efficient.

MISSES

Slightly bulky cover.

—Edward "Bugs" Kobayashi